

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09861 01 OF 02 031657Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----086680 031709Z /43  
O 031530Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7489  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 09861

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV XF IS EG US  
SUBJECT: FONMIN KAMEL'S PRELIMINARY REACTION TO USG  
"IDEAS" RE WEST BANK SETTLEMENT

SUMMARY: KAMEL CLAIMS GHORBAL BROUGHT NINE-POINT USG  
"IDEAS" FOR WEST BANK SETTLEMENT. KAMEL IS STUDYING  
"IDEAS", BUT HIS PRELIMINARY REACTION IS NEGATIVE.  
GHORBAL HAD ALSO REPORTED HIS UNDERSTANDING WE PLAN TABLE  
THESE "IDEAS" TOWARD END OF APRIL. KAMEL URGED WE DELAY  
DOING SO UNTIL AFTER BEGIN VISIT AND FULL CONSULTATIONS  
WITH GOE. SAUDIS SHOWING SIGNS OF BECOMING MORE SUPPOR-  
TIVE OF SADAT INITIATIVE AND KAMEL IS CONCERNED THAT OUR  
TABLING "IDEAS" SUCH AS THOSE GIVEN TO GHORBAL NOW WOULD  
DISRUPT ANY PROSPECTS OF RE-ACHIEVING ARAB SOLIDARITY.  
END SUMMARY.

1. MET TODAY WITH FONMIN KAMEL TO DISCUSS VARIETY OF  
SUBJECTS: AHMED MAHER WAS WITH HIM.

2. AFTER WE HAD COVERED VARIOUS TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, KAMEL  
SAID ASHRAF GHORBAL HAD FEW DAYS EARLIER GIVEN HIM USG  
"IDEAS" ON WEST BANK SETTLEMENT. THESE HAD BEEN CONVEYED  
TO GHORBAL BY ATHERTON AND/OR SAUNDERS. SINCE I TOLD HIM  
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I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY SUCH "IDEAS", HE THEN READ ME  
NINE-POINTS MEMORANDUM WHICH ALLEGEDLY REPRESENT OUR VIEWS.

3. KAMEL SAID THE NINE POINTS ARE STILL UNDER STUDY, BUT  
HIS PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS NEGATIVE. AS HE VIEWED THEM,  
THE "IDEAS" WE HAD GIVEN TO GHORBAL ARE A REPLIC OF  
BEGIN'S SELF-RULE PLAN. MOREOVER, HE NOTED THEY SEEM TO

APPLY ONLY TO THE WEST BANK, NOT GAZA.

4. CONTINUING, KAMEL NOTED THAT NOTHING IS SAID IN OUR "IDEAS" ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. MOREOVER, NO REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, ONLY TO RESIDENTS OF THE WEST BANK. THE CONCEPT OF HOLDING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WEST BANK IN ABEYANCE ALSO TROUBLED HIM. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR, HE ARGUED, THAT ISRAEL HAS NO CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY IN THE WEST BANK. THE REFERENCE TO "IMMIGRATION", HE ASSUMED, MEANS THE RETURN OF THE REFUGEES. AS HE READ OUR "IDEA" ON THE SUBJECT, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE A VETO ON THE RETURN OF REFUGEES. AT THE SAME TIME, JEWS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO BUY PROPERTY IN THE WEST BANK.

5. KAMEL SAID HE HOPED GOE WOULD HEAR SOMETHING MORE FROM US ABOUT THE "IDEAS" THAT GHORBAL HAD BROUGHT. GHORBAL HAD UNDERSTOOD USG PLANS FORMALLY TO TABLE THEM TOWARD END OF APRIL. KAMEL SAID THAT HE FEELS STRONGLY THAT ANY SUCH TABLING SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE BEGIN VISIT TO THE U.S. TO COME OUT NOW WITH SOMETHING LIKE THE NINE POINTS GHORBAL HAD BROUGHT WOULD, IN HIS VIEW, BE "DEVASTATING" FOR GOE. BEFORE ANYTHING IS TABLED, HE URGED THAT THERE BE CONSULTATION WITH GOE.

6. IN THIS CONNECTION, KAMEL NOTED THAT THERE SEEMS TO  
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BE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE SAUDIS TOWARD THE SADAT INITIATIVE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S STRONG TALK TO BEGIN IN WASHINGTON. DURING RECENT ARAB LEAGUE FONMINS' MEETING, SAUDI FONMIN SAUD BIN FAISAL HAD SAID THAT THE UNSUCCESSFUL BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON DEMONSTRATED THE SUCCESS OF SADAT'S POLICIES. THE SAUDIS, AS WELL AS SUDANESE AND OTHERS, ARE SEEKING TO REDEVELOP SOME ELEMENT OF ARAB SOLIDARITY AND THIS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. HE COULD NOT YET BE SURE HOW OPENLY THE SAUDIS WILL NOW SUPPORT THE SADAT INITIATIVE, BUT HOPED THEY WILL DO SO. HE PLANS TO EXPLORE HOW FAR SAUDIS ARE PREPARED TO GO. IN ANY EVENT, TABLING A WEST BANK PLAN BASED ON THE "IDEAS" WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO GHORBAL WOULD DESTROY ANY HOPE OF REGAINING ARAB SOLIDARITY. HENCE, HE REITERATED, WE SHOULD POSTPONE ANY SUCH IDEA AND CONSULT WITH EGYPT BEFORE TABLING ANYTHING.

7. COMMENT: I DO NOT KNOW WHAT "IDEAS" WERE GIVEN TO GHORBAL. I GATHER THAT WHATEVER WAS GIVEN WAS ORAL AND ASSUME HE SUBSEQUENTLY WROTE THEM DOWN. SOME OF THE POINTS I HAVE SEEN, OTHERS WERE TOTALLY NEW TO ME. IN THE CIR-

CUMSTANCES, I WAS HARDLY IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON  
KAMEL'S REMARKS. I DID REMIND HIM THAT WE HAD SEVERAL  
TIMES SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE TO USE  
THE BEGIN PLAN AS A BASIS AND GOE COULD PROPOSE SUCH  
ALTERATIONS AS IT DEEMED DESIRABLE. GOE HAD NOT SEEN FIT

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-----086681 031710Z /43  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7490  
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 09861

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

TO DO SO ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT HAS NO MANDATE. AS I  
HEARD THE NINE POINTS, HOWEVER, THEY SEEMED TO BE BASED  
ON THE CONCEPT OF USING THE BEGIN PLAN AS A BASIS, BUT  
ALTERING IT TO MEET ARAB REQUIREMENTS. KAMEL AGREED THIS  
MIGHT BE SO, BUT REMAINED DECIDEDLY UNHAPPY WITH OUR  
"IDEAS".

8. PLEASE ADVISE EXACTLY WHAT WAS SAID TO GHORBAL SINCE  
THE SUBJECT MAY ALSO BE RAISED BY SADAT, MUBARAK AND  
OTHERS. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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